A New Grandmaster Is Added

Kenneth Rogoff of Somerville, Mass., was awarded the grandmaster title at the general assembly of the International Chess Federation in Buenos Aires during the recent World Chess Olympiad. There had been no question about the causer of Rogoff’s play over the last five years, only whether he would compete in events for which grandmaster qualifying norms were established. When tournament invitations are paced out, they go first to established grandmasters.

Rogoff remarked, “As you know, my rating is higher than almost 60 percent of the world’s grandmasters, so I’m glad that I don’t have to be bitter about it any more.”

Rogoff’s inclusion swells the ranks of United States grandmasters to 13, the third largest number in the world. The Soviet Union has 33 and Yugoslavia 21.

In style, Rogoff is a man for all seasons, combining clear strategy with sharp tactics, as can be seen in his encounter with Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky in the 1978 Los Angeles International Tournament in Lone Pine, Calif.

The capture with 6. PnP is one of the most effective ways of meeting the Catalan Opening because, while the white queen uses time recovering the pawn with 7 Q-R4, P-QR3; 8 QxBP, Black advances smoothly with 8 . . . P-QN4; 9 Q-B2, making way for a counter-fianchetto on the long diagonal with 9 . . . B-N2.

The most promising way to work for the initiative would have been 10 B-B4; instead Reshevsky chose the slower, more cumbersome 10 QN-Q2. After 10 . . . QN-Q2, it was not possible for White to prevent . . . P-B4 by playing 11 N-N3, since 11 . . . B-K3, 12 Q-Q1, P-B4 would have given Black no problems.

It was consistent for Reshevsky to advance with 11 P-K4, P-B4; 12 P-K5, but after 12 . . . N-Q4; 13 Q-K4, Q-N3, the white center was overextended and firmly. On 14 PnP, NxBP, Rogoff achieved a clear advantage in development.

Reshevsky should have attempted to complete his mobilization with 16 N-N3 (not 16 N-K4?, P-KR4 winning a piece), but instead held some vague hope of a kingside attack with 16 P-KR4? On 16 . . . N-Q6, he still could not play 17 N-K4? because of 17 . . . NxB; 18 QRxN, N-K6? winning the exchange.

On Rogoff’s powerful 17 . . . R-B5, it’s understandable that Reshevsky did not want to consign his queen to a backwater with 18 Q-R3, but his 18 Q-R5 was sharply exploited by 18 . . . P-B4! Rogoff’s most obvious threat was 19 . . . B-QB3 and 20 . . . B-K3, trapping the queen, but he also threatened 19 . . . RxR!; 20 QRxR, N-N4-B3!, winning the queen.

There was no way for Reshevsky to avoid material loss and decisive positional disadvantage, but his 19 PnP permitted Rogoff to force the win of a piece by 19 . . . NxBP; 20 Q-N5, BxN!; 21 KxN, N-Q4; 22 Q-R5, P-N3. This would have been a good place for Reshevsky to resign, but, undoubtedly angry with himself over such a drubbing, he chose to go on as self-punishment.

Finally having had enough after 33 . . . Q-N5, he resigned.

Catalan Opening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Reshevsky</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Rogoff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 P-Q4</td>
<td>N-KB3</td>
<td>18 Q-R5</td>
<td>P-B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 P-QN4</td>
<td>P-K3</td>
<td>19 PnP</td>
<td>Nxp/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 P-KN3</td>
<td>P-Q4</td>
<td>20 Q-N3</td>
<td>BxN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 B-N2</td>
<td>B-R3</td>
<td>21 BxB</td>
<td>N-Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 N-KB3</td>
<td>B-B4</td>
<td>22 Q-R5</td>
<td>N-N3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 N-KB3</td>
<td>B-K4</td>
<td>23 QRxN</td>
<td>P-N3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Q-N4</td>
<td>P-QR3</td>
<td>24 BxP</td>
<td>K-N2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 QxBP</td>
<td>P-QN4</td>
<td>25 B-R3</td>
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<td>9 Q-B2</td>
<td>B-N6</td>
<td>26 B-N2</td>
<td>N-NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Q-N2</td>
<td>QRxQ</td>
<td>27 QRxN</td>
<td>B-B3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 P-K4</td>
<td>P-B4</td>
<td>28 N-Q2</td>
<td>Q-R6</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 P-K3</td>
<td>N-Q4</td>
<td>29 NxR</td>
<td>Pxn</td>
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<td>14 PxP</td>
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<td>15 Q-KN4</td>
<td>QR-B1</td>
<td>33 K-K4</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 P-KR4</td>
<td>N-Q6</td>
<td>34 Resigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 N-N3</td>
<td>R-B5</td>
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DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!
Rogoff gains top rate

By Harold Donohue
Special to The Globe

The word got around that Ken Rogoff, for many years a student at MIT, had become a Grandmaster but no one knew of any recent tournaments Rogoff had been in, to top the title.

It turns out he won a GM norm in a tournament in Mexico City. However, he had enough to get the title because he had achieved a GM norm at Oreense, 1976.

CHES

and Lone Pine 1978 and Interzonals count as International tournaments. Hence, his 1975 Interzonal performance gave him the third norm to qualify.

New Englanders will be happy to hear of Rogoff's new status. Rogoff is temperamentally as far from the prima donna type as one can get. He has not played in New England often but has occasionally given lectures here in which he translates difficult games with lucid and detailed explanations.

This takes some calculation: White to move and win. Answer elsewhere on page.

Note is explained by Christiansen's comment that he couldn't stand to look at Black's pawns any longer.

CHESS

Here is one of Ken Rogoff's wins from the US Championship in Pasadena. This game dealt a severe blow to Larry Christiansen who was contending strongly for a top spot. Notes are based on Rogoff's comments. The early resignination is explained by Christiansen's comment that he couldn't stand to look at Black's pawns any longer.

Chess Calendar

Jan. 1 — The Comfortable Bexford Club Open House. Hon. Healy 30/90, fourth-round Swiss, refreshments and relaxation, fee $10 if in advance, rated and unrated sections. Play and write, Raymond DC (YMC Union). 48 Breslau St., Boston. Round 1 at 6:45 a.m.

Jan. 4-5 — Bexford, Thursday Night, Swiss No. 53, fourth-round Swiss, YMC Union. 48 Bexford St., Boston 02116. Entry plus $16 at same address.

Jan. 6-7 — Newton, $10 Open, fourth-round Swiss, Newton Holiday Inn, 350 Grove St. and 53 off Route 128. New-

Jan. 4-6 — Boston, Thursday Night, Swiss No. 53, fourth-round Swiss, YMC Union. 48 Bexford St., Boston 02116. Entry plus $16 at same address.

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